

25X1A

DATE DISTR. 11 JAN 50

NO. OF PAGES 23

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

Document No. 5  
No Change In Class. ☐  
☐ Declassified  
Class. Changed To: TS S C  
AUTHORITY: DDP83-09657R004000560005-5  
Date: 31 May 78 By: 027

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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negotiate effectively with the US to find the means to replace FRANCO by a regime which would permit the integration of Spain into the international sphere.

5. SPAAK indicated that he considered VALERA's suggestion responsive to European necessity. In turn he suggested an initial plan, as follows:
  - a. The Republican Government in Exile would make a public statement along the lines of VALERA's exposition to SPAAK.
  - b. Simultaneously, a numerous and select group of European democrats would issue a manifesto, adopting the idea of the republican declaration. This group of personalities would be selected by SPAAK, who would undertake to collect the signatures of the individual personalities.
  - c. SPAAK then would take up the problem directly with the US Government, seeking the most practical means to force FRANCO to abandon power to a government for whose formation SPAAK would consent to be mediator. The US, added SPAAK, is in a position to exercise this pressure without the least violence; FRANCO would not resist for a moment a resolute suggestion which came from Washington.
  - d. Negotiation must be started immediately, added SPAAK. At the meeting of the UN Assembly in March, the USSR will probably use the Spanish situation as a pawn against the western democracies. It is advisable to forestall that move.
7. VALERA, immediately after his conference with SPAAK, wrote to Alvaro de ALBORNOZ, Republican Prime Minister, who is in Mexico, relaying SPAAK's suggestions. ALBORNOZ opposed intervention by the Republican Government as such, but left the door open to some other procedure for continuing the negotiations.
8. About mid-December, VALERA discussed the matter with Jose Antonio de AGUIRRE, President of the Basque Government in exile, who gave his blessing to collaboration with SPAAK, although he considered that a manifesto along the lines set out in 5 b above would be dismissed as just another petition on behalf of the Republican Government in exile. As the instrument for collaboration, AGUIRRE suggested the Consejo Federal Español, a group of liberal Spaniards which has honorary membership in the Council of Europe headed by SPAAK. The Consejo Federal is widely representative, including among others Salvador de MADARIAGA, liberal Monarchist, Rodolfo LLOPIS, Socialist, and Republican, Basque and Catalan representatives. VALERA agreed with AGUIRRE, and anticipated that ALBORNOZ would have no objection to collaboration between the Consejo Federal and SPAAK. There would then remain the task of persuading the other political forces, especially the Socialists and the Monarchists, to accept the idea.

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